

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 3, 4 and 9, and add new claims 15-18 as follows:

1. (Original) A flat-type discharge lamp composed of a first dielectric plate integrally formed at its inner surface with a plurality of spaced dielectric ribs at the same height defined by a specified discharge distance, a second dielectric plate assembled in parallel with the first dielectric plate to form a sealed space to be filled with inert gas, and electrodes in the form of a thin membrane respectively deposited on the outer surfaces of the dielectric plates, wherein the electrodes are applied with a specified voltage to cause discharge in inert gas filled in spaces among the dielectric ribs within the sealed space thereby to produce visible light on a light emitting surface formed on at least one of the electrodes,  
  
characterized in that the first dielectric plate is formed at its outer periphery with an outer peripheral frame having a support surface of the same height as the dielectric ribs, the second dielectric plate is bonded by an adhesive coated in a recess formed along one side of the support surface and secured tightly at its bottom surface in contact with the top surface of the respective dielectric ribs.
2. (Original) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein  
  
a space between the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame and the dielectric rib opposed thereto is determined narrower in width than each space among the other dielectric ribs.
3. (Currently Amended) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein  
  
the second dielectric plate is bonded in position by means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the outer periphery of the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned in contact with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame.
4. (Currently Amended) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein

the second dielectric plate is bonded in position by means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the inner periphery of the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned in contact with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame.

5. (Original) A flat -type discharge lamp composed of a first dielectric plate integrally formed at its inner surface with a plurality of spaced dielectric ribs at the same height defined by a specified discharge distance, a second dielectric plate assembled in parallel with the first dielectric plate to form a sealed space to be filled with inert gas, and electrodes in the form of a thin membrane respectively deposited on the outer surfaces of the dielectric plates, wherein the electrodes are applied with a specified voltage to cause discharge in inert gas filled in spaces among the dielectric ribs within the sealed space thereby to produce visible light on a light emitting surface formed on at least one of the electrodes,

characterized in that the first dielectric plate is formed at its outer periphery with an outer peripheral frame having a support surface of the same height as the dielectric ribs and that the second dielectric plate is retained tightly in contact with the dielectric ribs at its bottom surface and bonded to the upper surface of the outer peripheral frame by means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the outer periphery of its bottom surface in a condition where it has been positioned by engagement with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame.

6. (Original) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 5, wherein a space between the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame and the dielectric rib opposed thereto is determined narrower in width than each space among the other dielectric ribs.
7. (Original) A flat-type discharge lamp composed of a first dielectric plate integrally formed at its inner surface with a plurality of spaced dielectric ribs at the same height defined by a specified discharge distance, a second dielectric plate assembled in parallel with the first dielectric plate to form a sealed space to be filled with inert gas, and electrodes in the form of a thin membrane respectively deposited on the outer surfaces of the dielectric plates, wherein the electrodes are applied with a specified

voltage to cause discharge in inert gas filled in spaces among the dielectric ribs within the sealed space thereby to produce visible light on a light emitting surface formed on at least one of the electrodes,

characterized in that the first dielectric plate is formed at its outer periphery with an outer peripheral frame having a support surface lower in height than the dielectric ribs and that the second dielectric plate is bonded by means of an adhesive coated on the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in

a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned by engagement with the top surfaces of the dielectric ribs.

8. (Original) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 7, wherein  
a space between the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame and the dielectric rib opposed thereto is determined narrower in width than each space among the other dielectric ribs.
9. (Currently Amended) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~either one of claims 1--8~~,  
wherein the dielectric ribs are integrally formed on the inner surface of the first dielectric plate and spaced in parallel with a predetermined distance, the dielectric ribs being spaced from the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame at their one ends in a longitudinal direction to form a plurality of sealed spaces in open communication to be filled with inert gas.
10. (Original) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 9, wherein the dielectric ribs are tapered at their side surfaces opposed to each other toward the inner surface of the first dielectric plate.
11. (Original) A flat-type discharge lamp composed of a first dielectric plate integrally formed at its inner surface with a plurality of spaced dielectric ribs at the same height defined by a specified discharge distance, a second dielectric plate assembled in parallel with the first dielectric plate to form a sealed space to be filled with inert gas, an opaque electrode in the form of a thin membrane deposited on the outer surface of the first dielectric plate, a transparent electrode in the form of a thin membrane

deposited on the inner surface of the second dielectric plate, wherein the electrodes are applied with a specified voltage to cause discharge in inert gas filled in spaces among the dielectric ribs within the sealed space thereby to produce visible light on a light emitting surface formed on the transparent electrode,

characterized in that the first dielectric plate is formed at its outer periphery with an outer peripheral frame having a support surface of the same height as the dielectric ribs and that the second dielectric plate is bonded by an adhesive coated in a recess formed along one side of the support surface and secured tightly at its bottom surface in contact with the top surface of the respective dielectric ribs.

12. (Original) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 11, wherein a space between the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame and the dielectric rib opposed thereto is determined narrower in width than each space among the other dielectric ribs.

13. (Original) A flat-type discharge lamp composed of a first dielectric plate integrally formed at its inner surface with a plurality of spaced dielectric ribs at the same height defined by a specified discharge distance, a second dielectric plate assembled in parallel with the first dielectric plate to form a sealed space to be filled with inert gas, electrodes in the form of a thin membrane respectively deposited on the outer surface of the first dielectric plate and the inner surface of the second dielectric plate, wherein the electrodes are applied with a specified voltage to cause discharge in inert gas filled in spaces among the dielectric ribs within the sealed space thereby to produce visible light on a light emitting surface formed on the electrode deposited on the outer surface of the first dielectric plate or the electrode deposited on the inner surface of the second dielectric plate,

characterized in that the electrode in the form of the membrane deposited on the inner surface of the second dielectric plate is provided at its inner surface with a fluorescent thin membrane and that the first dielectric plate is formed at its outer periphery with an outer peripheral frame having a support surface of the same height as the dielectric ribs, the second dielectric plate being bonded by an adhesive coated in a recess formed along one side of the support surface and secured tightly at its bottom surface in contact with the top surface of the respective dielectric ribs.

14. (Original) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 13, wherein a space between the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame and the dielectric rib opposed thereto is determined narrower in width than each space among the other dielectric ribs.
15. (New) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, wherein  
the second dielectric plate is bonded in position by means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the outer periphery of the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned in contact with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame.
16. (New) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2], wherein  
the second dielectric plate is bonded in position by means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the inner periphery of the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned in contact with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame.
17. (New) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 5,  
wherein the dielectric ribs are integrally formed on the inner surface of the first dielectric plate and spaced in parallel with a predetermined distance, the dielectric ribs being spaced from the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame at their one ends in a longitudinal direction to form a plurality of sealed spaces in open communication to be filled with inert gas.
18. (New) A flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 7,  
wherein the dielectric ribs are integrally formed on the inner surface of the first dielectric plate and spaced in parallel with a predetermined distance, the dielectric ribs being spaced from the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame at their one ends in a longitudinal direction to form a plurality of sealed spaces in open communication to be filled with inert gas.